

“This is Not What I Expected”

Genesis 21

“This is not what I expected.”

Three facts about discouragement: It is universal, recurring and highly contagious.

Principle: When you are disappointed, don't curse it.

Romans 12:14 “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”

Principle: The moment you start retaliating – God stops defending you.

Principle: When you are disappointed, don't rehearse it.

Job 5:2 “To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish thing to do.”

Ephesians 4:31 “Get rid of all bitterness, anger and slander along with every form of malice.”

Principle: When you are disappointed, don't nurse it.

Ephesians 4:26, 27 “Do not let the sun go down while you're still angry. And do not give the devil a foothold.”

Job 18:4 “You are only hurting yourself with your anger.”

Positive lessons of disappointment:

- It teaches us humility.
- It turns our focus away from the world and back to God.
- It teaches us to appreciate what we already have.
- It liberates us from the bondage of having to have our own way.

Ecclesiastes 3:4 “There is a time to weep and a time to laugh.”

Why is God faithful in His promises to us?

- Because of His character

Psalm 33:4 “For the word of the Lord is right and true: He is faithful in all he does.”

- Because of His love

Ephesians 3:18, 19 “.....may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and how long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

- Because of His covenant with us

Psalm 145:13 “The Lord is faithful to all His promises.”

Principle: God initiates – we respond.

Ephesians 6:4 “Father, raise your children in the Lord.”

Principle: Abraham learned that choices have consequences.

How do you handle discouragement?

1. Do disperse it.

Psalm 142:2, 3 “I bring God all my complaints, I tell Him all my troubles. When I’m ready to give up, He knows what I should do!”

1 Peter 5:7 “Cast all your care on Him, because He cares for you.”

Principle: When you are disappointed – God hears your cry.

Jeremiah 33:3 “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

Psalm 116:1 “I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.”

Words for crying out:

Calling aloud (crying out) (qara)

Psalm 50:15 “...and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

Psalm 145:18 “The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.”

A loud humming or murmuring – even to a growl or roar (Hamah)

Psalm 55:17 “Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.”

High pitch shout for help (shava)

Psalm 18:6 “In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.”

Psalm 34:15 “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry.”

Actual shriek as if in grief (tsa’aq)

Psalm 34:17 “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.”

Ringling or shrill sound (rinnah)

Psalm 61:1 “For the director of music. With stringed instruments. Of David. Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.”

Psalm 3:4; Psalm 4:3; Psalm 28:1; Psalm 28:2; Psalm 30:2; Psalm 142:1.

Galatians 4:6 “Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”

How are we to cry out to God?

1. With passion.

Jeremiah 29:13 “God says, you will find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

2. With persistence.

Romans 8:32 “If God loved you enough to give Jesus, His son, to die for you, He loves you enough to care for your other needs.”

Matthew 7:11 “If you being an imperfect father know how to give good gifts, certainly your heavenly Father who’s perfect knows how to give gifts to you.”

Colossians 4:2 “Don’t be weary in prayer. Keep at it. Watch for God’s answers.”

3. With precision.

James 4:2 “The reasons you don’t have what you want is because you don’t ask God for it. You have not because you ask not.”

4. With expectation.

Mark 11:24 “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it will be yours.”

5. With thanksgiving.

Philippians 4:6 “In all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart.”

2. Do let God reverse it.

Genesis 50:20 “You intended to harm me but God intended it for good.”

3. Do keep on going.